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CUBA.

Report on the city and harbor of Guantanamo, Cuba, and arrangements for a quarantine.

MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER IN COMMAND,
Santiago de Cuba, March 10, 1899.

Guantanamo is a flourishing town with a population of about 6,000. Before the war it contained probably 10,000. It is the capital of the judicial district of the same name. The city is about 40 miles from Santiago and 17½ miles from the mouth of the Bay of Guantanamo. It was founded in 1843, and in consequence the streets are wider and the city more regularly planned than the older cities, such as Santiago, Havana, etc. It is situated on a plain 150 feet above the sea, and on the west bank of the Guaso River. Between the city and the bay is considerable low and marshy land. Although designated a port of entry, the real seaport is the village of Caimanera, located on the west bank of the Bay of Guantanamo, and connected with the town of Guantanamo by railroad, about 15 miles distant.

Caimanera is a small village, inhabited by fishermen, stevedores, and pilots. There is a single wharf, which can accommodate vessels drawing not over 14 feet. Larger vessels anchor in the bay and load and unload by means of lighters.

The harbor is a splendid land-locked sheet of water, about 7 miles in diameter. It is encircled by hills, though portions of the shore are low and marshy. From the south a somewhat narrow entrance, about 6 miles long, leads into it. The harbor is deep and ample for the largest vessels.

The city receives its water supply from the river Guaso. It has no sewerage system. Its sanitary history has not been good. Yellow fever prevails annually in the city and surrounding district. The shipping at this port is less exposed to the infection on account of the distance of the city from the harbor.

The following table, obtained from Mr. Theodore Brooks, British consular agent, shows the number of deaths in the civil population of Guantanamo for the past three years :

Number of deaths for the years 1896, 1897, and 1898.

Date.	Small-pox.	Yellow fever.	Other diseases.	Hunger.	Total.
1896.					
April.....	4		72		76
May.....	7		59		66
June.....	22		57		79
July.....	43	13	75		a 131
August.....	57	18	99		a 174
September.....	30	6	78		114
October.....	13	2	74		89
November.....	6	10	103		119
December.....	4	4	109		117
1897.					
January....	8	1	102		111
February.....	4		66		70
March.....	7		72		79
April.....	6		60		66
May.....	3	1	94	2	b 100
June.....	2		132		b 134
July.....	1	3	160	1	165
August.....		20	165	2	187
September.....					
October.....		1	124		125
November.....		4	105		c 109
December.....		22	142		164
1898.					
January.....		15	143		158
February.....		8	103		111
March.....		6	98		104
April.....		9	91		d 100
May.....		15	138		153
June.....		14	195		209
July.....		43	289		332
August.....		35	396		431
September.....		10	60		70
October.....		5	48		53

a Weyler's first concentration.

b Weyler's second concentration.

c Two thousand men (recruits) arrived from Spain.

d Spanish garrison increased from 40,00 to 7,000.

At present pernicious malarial fever prevails in the city, and a severe form of fever, the chief symptoms of which are fever, jaundice, vomiting, and hematuria. Its exact nature is being studied.

SHIPPING.

The principal export is sugar. During normal times coffee, cocoa, wax, and mahogany are also exported.

The following table shows the amount of shipping at the port of Guantanamo during the past five years :

Year.	Steamers.	Tonnage.	Sailing vessels.	Tonnage.
1894	52	85,623	84	35,837
1895	31	51,431	62	28,306
1896	35	56,538	37	16,980
1897	48	73,666	4	1,573
1898	39	68,336	8	1,119

In addition there are the north and south coast lines, which make Caimanera a way port. From these figures it will be seen that 2 to 5 vessels a week will need the attention of the quarantine officer. The steamer traffic with the United States and this port at present consists

almost entirely of the "Ward Line," which brings general cargo and takes away sugar.

Sailing vessels bring lumber and coal and take sugar to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Boston, rarely for a southern port.

Excepting the transports, there is no direct passenger travel from Guantanamo to the United States. Passengers desiring to go to the United States from Guantanamo must first go to Santiago or Havana for passage.

QUARANTINE.

The amount of shipping does not justify the establishment of a quarantine station in this harbor. An inspection is necessary, and the appointment of Dr. Fernando Nin y Caballero as sanitary inspector for the port has been recommended. He has been instructed to send vessels, requiring disinfection, to Santiago for treatment. The distance being only 40 miles, this is practical for vessels leaving Guantanamo for the United States, as well as for infected vessels arriving at Guantanamo.

The prevailing system of fees has been abolished and the doctor instructed as to the regulations applicable to that port.

Doctor Nin will send to this office weekly a report of vessels inspected, etc., a statement of the health of the city, and other facts of interest.

Respectfully submitted,

M. J. ROSENAU,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. H. M. S.

MEXICO.

Reply to inquiry concerning yellow fever in seaports.

[See letter from Secretary of the Treasury to Secretary of State, pp. 387-8.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Tampico, March 2, 1899.

SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt of Department Circular of February 11 and beg to submit the following in compliance therewith:

Permit me to refer you to my dispatch, No. 41, dated January 16, 1899, and inclosures therein, as the conditions, causes, and statistics of the yellow fever of 1898, in this port, were given; and as I believed the disease would reappear this coming summer, I asked that a physician be appointed for this port to examine carefully the vessels sailing from here to the United States, Cuban, and Porto Rican ports.

Though there has been to date no acknowledgment from Surgeon-General's office, I sincerely hope the request will be given very careful consideration.

The map herewith, inclosure No. 1, shows the surroundings of Tampico, on the one side of the river. I have marked in red ink such points as called for in the circular, such as "where ships lie," quarantine pesthouse, etc.

Replying to questions in the circular in the order given:

1. No measures of municipal sanitation have been undertaken during last twenty years, except to remove garbage from houses and dump it on margin of the laguna, where fever of 1898 started.

2. Only quarantine regulation is the visit and examination of official doctor to each vessel entering port before allowed to discharge or receive passengers or freight. This has been done since harbor was opened, about 1892.